

Teen books about **Latino Characters**

Shelved in Teen Fiction or Teen's Paperbacks

Bertrand, Diane

Sweet Fifteen

When seamstress Rita Navarro makes a quinceanera dress for fourteen-year-old Stefanie, she finds herself becoming involved with the girl's family and attracted to her uncle.

Canales, Viola

The Tequila Worm

Sofia grows up in the close-knit community of the barrio in McAllen, Texas, and then finds that her experiences as a scholarship student at a boarding school in Austin only strengthen her ties to family and her "compadres."

Cisneros, Sandra

Caramelo, or, Puro Cuento: a novel

Sequel to **The House on Mango Street**

De La Garza, Beatriz

Pillars of Gold and Silver

While spending the summer with her grandmother in Mexico, Blanca Estela gradually adjusts to small town life and knows she will miss it when she returns to the United States.

Draper, Sharon

Romiette and Julio

Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy fall in love on the Internet and find themselves being harassed by a gang whose members object to interracial dating.

Fields, Terri

After the Death of Anna Gonzales

Poems written in the voices of forty-seven people, including students, teachers, and other school staff, record the aftermath of a high school student's suicide and the preoccupations of teen life.

Jimenez, Francisco

The Circuit: Stories From the Life of a Migrant Child (Also Breaking through)

Francisco Jimenez was born in Mexico, entered California illegally as a young child, and spent his boyhood alternating between migrant farm work and the classroom. This collection of autobiographical short stories was written years later but portrays the feelings of the growing boy.

Lachtman, Ofelia Dumas

The Summer of El Pintor

When sixteen-year-old Monica and her widowed father go back to Los Angeles, reluctantly moving from a wealthy neighborhood to the barrio house her mother grew up in, Monica tries to locate a missing neighbor, and in the process learns about her mother's past.

Martinez, Manuel

Drift

The world through the eyes of 16-year-old Mexican-American Robert Lomos, part tough-talking cynic, part sensitive older brother and son who is forced to learn more than he wants to about adult responsibilities when his mother has a mental breakdown.

Martinez, Victor

Parrot in the Oven: mi vida: a novel

Manny relates his coming of age experiences as a member of a poor Mexican American family in which the alcoholic father only adds to everyone's struggle.

Mastretta, Angeles

Women with big eyes

Thirty-nine remarkable aunts are captured in a series of short stories in this autobiographically inspired collection, a bestseller in the author's native Mexico.

Mikaelsen, Ben

Tree Girl

When Gabriela witnesses the destruction of her Maya village and the murder of nearly all its inhabitants she and her traumatized sister find safety in a Mexican refugee camp.

Paulsen, Gary

The Crossing

Thirteen-year-old Manny, a street kid fighting for survival in a Mexican border town, develops a strange friendship with an emotionally disturbed American soldier who decides to help him get across the border.

Saenz, Benjamin Alire

Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood

As a Chicano boy living in the unglamorous town of Hollywood, New Mexico, and a member of the graduating class of 1969, Sammy faces the challenges of "gringo" racism, unpopular dress codes, the Vietnam War, barrio violence, and poverty.

Santana, Patricia

Motorcycle Ride on the Sea of Tranquility

Growing up with her large Mexican American family in San Diego in the late 1960s, fourteen-year-old Yolanda tries to help her favorite brother Chuy, a Vietnam veteran, who has returned from the war and is suffering emotional problems.

Soto, Gary

Buried Onions

When nineteen-year-old Eddie drops out of college, he struggles to find a place for himself as a Mexican American living in a violence-infested neighborhood of Fresno, California.

Other titles by Gary Soto: **The Afterlife, Jesse, Help Wanted: Stories**

**Shelved in
Teen Non-Fiction**

Franco, Betsy

You Hear Me? Poems and Writing by Teenage Boys

An anthology of stories, poems, and essays by adolescent boys on issues that concern them.

Ortiz Cofer, Judith (ed.)

Riding Low on the Streets of Gold

Stories and poems relate the daily experiences of young Latino youth capturing their struggles with relationships, authority figures, and identity.

Shelved in Adult Fiction

Anaya, Rudolpho

Bless Me, Ultima

Chronicles the story of an alienated New Mexico boy who seeks an answer to his questions about life in his relationship with Ultima, a magical healer.

**Shelved in Adult
Spanish Language**

Rodriguez, Luis

La Republica de East L.A. : cuentos (shelved in Spanish Language section)

Poet, essayist and editor Rodriguez (Always Running: La Vida Loca; Gang Days in L.A.) assembles 12 gritty, hard-hitting snapshots taken from the lives of careworn characters struggling to survive amid crime, poverty and racism in the barrio of East Los Angeles.

City of Mountain View Public Library Teen Services

585 Franklin Street

Mountain View, CA 94041

<http://library.mountainview.gov>